Investment and returns from public and private sectors

165. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI J. P. JAVALI:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have borrowed around Rs. 75,000 crores from banks and other institutions at 11 per cent interest rate and invested this amount in public sector units with accrual of 2 per cent interest; if not, what are the exact rates of interest on borrowings and lending;

(b) what is the accrual of dividends, excise, customs, corporation tax, capital gain tax, etc. from public sector to the Government in last three years and comparable statistics from private corporate sectors; and

(c) what is the total capital investment in public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Import of Silver

166. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to allow import of silver on the lines of gold import; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Gold through official channels

167. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to import gold through official channels on behalf of NRIs to ensure transit safety; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Certain suggestions for modifying the gold import scheme to obviate the need for physical carriage of gold by NRIs have been received and these are under consideration.

PHDCCFs recommendation on excise *duty rates*

168. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government to retain specific excise rates till the next general budget;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to examine indepth the recommendations of the PHDCCI; and

(d) if so, by when, and what further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) A representation has been received from the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggesting, *inter alia*, that the Government could retain the specific rated system at least till the next Union Budget.